



**VOLUNTEER
FLORIDA**

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Chief Executive Officer

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STATE OF FLORIDA:
DONATE AND SERVE WISELY TO HURRICANE VICTIMS

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER, TALLAHASSEE - As residents across Florida start rebuilding from Hurricane Charley, the State of Florida encourages everyone to contribute wisely towards recovery efforts. Consider the following before you donate goods, money, or your time:

Financial contributions are preferred.

Cash donations help to avoid the labor and expense of sorting, packing, transporting and distributing donated goods and voluntary relief agencies use cash to meet victims' specific needs more quickly.

Donate through an experienced organization.

Relief agencies prefer the versatility of cash donations, however some have the infrastructure in place to store and distribute donated goods. To prevent waste, donations of goods should be made only to agencies that have requested specific items.

Confirm the need before collecting.

Donors should be wary of anyone who claims that "everything" is needed. Many groups have been disappointed that their efforts and the goods they collected were not appreciated. A community hit by disaster, however, does not have the time, manpower, or money to dispose of unneeded donations. Get precise information before collecting any donated goods.

Volunteer wisely to help others.

In a community struggling to respond to and recover from a disaster, an influx of unexpected or unneeded volunteers and donations can make the process even more difficult. Before traveling to the disaster area to help, learn where and when your skills will be needed. Discuss with volunteer organizers how your needs for food, water and shelter will be met while you are volunteering.

In times of disaster, Volunteers & Donations are coordinated by **Volunteer Florida, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service**. Volunteer Florida encourages all citizens to get involved in their communities through volunteerism and service. For more information visit www.volunteerflorida.org.

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